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REPORTERS SAY CIA HELPED IN ATTEMPT ON PASTORA'S LIFE
BY OLDEMAR RAMIREZ

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) _ Three American journalists said Thursday that last year's bombing of a news conference held by Nicaraguan guerrilla leader Eden Pastora was planned and executed by rightists with CIA aid.

Pastora, head of the Nicaraguan rebel group Revolutionary Democratic Alliance, was wounded in the bombing at La Penca, Nicaragua, on May 30, 1984, and four people were killed.

An 86-page report by the three journalists said the bombing was carried out by rightists belonging to the Honduran-based anti-Sandinista rebel group Nicaraguan Democratic Force, or FDN, with the help of the CIA.

The journalists, who witnessed the bombing, released the report at a news conference in San Jose. The report contained no specific evidence to support their claim and it was impossible to verify.

The journalists are Martha Honey, a correspondent for ABC Television and the British newspapers London and Sunday Times; Tony Avirgan, ABC Television correspondent; and Dery Dayer, of The Tico Times, a Costa Rican English-language magazine.

``We investigated persons belonging to the left and the right. We believed at the beginning that the Sandinists, as well as the enemies of Pastora within the anti-Sandinista groups, had reasons to kill him,'' Honey said.

She added that ``the weight of the evidence indicated the existence of a conspiracy of the right'' by the FDN, by other rebels who disagreed with Pastora, and some Cubans in Miami who oppose Cuban leader Fidel Castro and who have links with the CIA.

Pastora, a disaffected hero of the Sandinista revolution, has resisted what he said was CIA pressure to unite his force, fighting in southern Nicaragua, with the larger FDN, which was fighting in the north with U.S. aid. Pastor's force claims about 5,000 fighters to about 8,000 for the FDN.

Honey also said that the journalists first thought that the attempt on Pastora's life at La Penca was an isolated terrorist act. Later, she said, the reporters found the existence of a terrorist group that has planned other assassinations in Costa Rica and Honduras.

She said some of the terrorist group's goals are to assassinate Pastora to facilitate the FDN's participation in southern Nicaragua; to provoke conflicts between Costa Rica and Nicaragua and between Honduras and Nicaragua; and to launch terrorist acts against Americans with the aim of blaming the Sandinistas and provoking U.S. military intervention in Nicaragua.

Honey did not identify the terrorist group or say what evidence the reporters had of its existence or its intentions.

Avirgan said that after the attempt on Pastora, a campaign was launched to divert public attention with false clues.

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